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LEADING THE NEWS

Water Pollution

Supreme Court to Decide Water Rule Challenge Venue

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide whether challenges to the Environmental Protection Agency clean water rule, which seeks to clarify Clean Water Act jurisdiction, properly lie in federal district courts or a specific federal appeals...

NEWS

Agriculture

Two New Agriculture Subcommittee Chairmen Named

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) tapped two lawmakers for new subcommittee posts....

Agriculture

Vilsack Exits USDA Early; Trump's Secretary Pick 'Soon'

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said he is leaving his post effective Jan. 13, departing a week ahead of the rest of the Obama administration....

Air Pollution

Coal Curbs in Asia Could Save 50,000 Lives Annually, Study Says

About 50,000 lives a year could be saved by 2030 if no new coal-fired power plants are built in Southeast Asia, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, according to a study from researchers at Harvard University and Greenpeace International....

Air Pollution

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Fiat Chrysler Said to Face U.S. Criminal Emissions Probe
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV is under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department over its alleged failure to disclose software that violated emissions standards, according to people familiar with the matter, another legal hurdle for...

Air Pollution

Obama EPA Locks Trump Team Into Air Standards Decisions

The Trump administration will need to make a decision by this summer on whether to retain or revise an air quality standard for nitrogen oxides after the Obama Environmental Protection Agency agreed to a court deadline for reviewing its regulations....

Chemicals

EPA Proposes Strategy to Identify, Review Commercial Chemicals

The Environmental Protection Agency released three proposed rules that would establish its first-ever, comprehensive regulatory strategy to evaluate—and regulate, if needed—chemicals in commerce. ...

Chemicals

Process to Select Chemicals for Risk Review Proposed: EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency released a proposed rule Jan. 13 describing a risk-based process it would use to identify chemicals in commerce that are high priorities for risk evaluation and low priority chemicals that don't...

Chemicals

Veterans Affairs to Pay \$2.2B for Camp Lejeune Illnesses

The Department of Veterans Affairs expects to pay out \$2.2 billion in health benefits for newly recognized illnesses suffered by veterans exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune decades ago....

Climate Change

No Clear Strategy for Challenging EPA Vehicle Standards

The automotive industry's options may be limited if it plans to challenge the Environmental Protection Agency's affirmation of its greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks, according to advocates and industry...

Climate Policy

California Considers Guaranteeing Carbon Prices in Trump Era

California is considering a system to protect projects that cut global-warming emissions from a market downturn that may worsen under a Trump administration....

Climate Regulation

Reconsideration of Power Plant Carbon Rule Denied by EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency will not entertain revisions to its carbon dioxide limits for power plants, which are already under review by a federal appellate court....

Coal Mining

Peabody Plan Blasted as 'Value Grab,' Environmental Hazard

Peabody Energy Corp. faces mounting opposition to its bankruptcy exit plan, including claims that it grants a sweetheart deal to the creditors who negotiated the financing and doesn't comply with environmental regulations....

Courts

Points for Participation: Class Members Increasingly Active

Volkswagen diesel owners call class counsel on their cellphones. They barrage the court with e-mails. They engage in Twitter discussions....

Energy

House Republicans Prioritize Biofuel Overhaul

House Republicans are moving towards an overhaul of the renewable fuel standard (RFS) after recently appointing a critic of that program to lead the Energy and Commerce Committee.
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Energy

New Yukon Premier Acts on Fracking, Greenhouse Gases

Establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets and reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources will be part of the Yukon minister of environment's responsibilities under new Premier Sandy Silver....

Energy

U.S. Energy Jobs Grew by 5 Percent in 2016, Government Says

U.S. energy and energy-efficiency jobs grew by more than 300,000 last year, up 5 percent, the Energy Department said Jan 13. ...

Enforcement

Pepco to Pay \$1.6 Million in Stormwater Discharge Settlement

Potomac Electric Power Co. will pay \$1.6 million in penalties and take steps to reduce metal pollutants in one facility's stormwater discharge as part of a proposed consent decree reached with federal agencies (United States v. Potomac...

EPA

Ethics Watchdog Asked to Investigate Possible Pruitt Conflicts

Democratic senators are urging a federal ethics watchdog to investigate potentially unreported conflicts of interest between the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), along with other advocacy groups, and President-elect...

EPA

Fearing Trump Data Purge, Environmentalists Push to Get Records

U.S. government scientists frantically copying climate data they fear will disappear under the Trump administration may get extra time to safeguard the information, courtesy of a novel legal bid by the Sierra Club....

EPA

Obama EPA Racing Through Finish Line With Civil Rights Plan

States and other federal-funding recipients will receive additional tools and reviews by the Environmental Protection Agency as part of its efforts to beef up anti-environmental racism protections, according to a recently released final...

Fuel Efficiency

EPA Defies Automakers by Keeping Efficiency Standards Intact

The Environmental Protection Agency announced it's keeping vehicle efficiency standards intact through the 2025 model year, shoring up a key piece of President Barack Obama's environmental legacy against a challenge by the...

Fuel Efficiency

Marchionne Faces Cheating Charge From Weaker Position Than VW

The emissions-violations accusations lodged against Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV Jan. 12 may look like those that have cost Volkswagen AG more than \$20 billion—the kind of money the smaller carmaker doesn't have....

Hydraulic Fracturing

Canada Court Protects Regulator Against Fracking Claims

An Alberta landowner cannot pursue constitutional damages against a provincial regulator for refusing to hear claims about property damage caused by hydraulic fracturing, Canada's top court ruled in a close split decision....

Oil & Gas

Will Putin and Trump Bond Over Oil?

In the early 2000s, the Russian and U.S. presidents, Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush, decided it was time their two countries had a closer relationship. The obvious place to start was the oil industry. The U.S. was importing almost twice as...

Pesticides

Advocates Prepare for Battle as Weedkiller Use Expands

Environmental advocacy groups are gearing up to protest a decision from the Environmental Protection Agency to approve expanding a herbicide's use on cotton and in new states to kill stubborn weeds....

Pesticides

House Oversight Chair Questions 'Public Scrutiny' Over Glyphosate

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is taking steps to revive the debate on an international agency's

finding that the popular herbicide glyphosate may cause cancer....

Pipeline Safety

Pipeline Agency Expands Inspection, Reporting Requirements

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration released newly expanded reporting, inspection and assessment requirements for hazardous liquid pipelines in the final version of a wide-ranging rule Jan. 13....

Regulatory Policy

Trump Stirs Homebuilders' Dreams of Bulldozing Environment Rules

As Don Huffines sees it, Donald Trump's election instantly made his Dallas-area pastureland much more valuable. That's because the residential developer expects the president-elect to follow through on a pledge to cut through...

Renewable Energy

China Targets More Than 50 Megawatts of Marine Energy by 2020

China is planning to increase the amount of power it generates from marine sources about sevenfold to more than 50 megawatts by 2020 as it seeks to develop alternative forms of renewable energy....

Renewable Energy

Chinese, Germans Seek to Turn Chernobyl Wasteland to Solar Park

Chinese and Germans are among dozens of investors taking Ukraine up on its offer to turn the grounds of one of the world's worst nuclear disasters into a massive solar park....

Renewable Energy

Japan Orders More Study of Fukushima-Area Wind Power
Mixed messages from Japan's government could limit wind power expansion in the country, an official with the Japan Wind Power Association said. His comments followed the decision to delay approval of a pair of wind farms proposed near...

Renewable Energy

Trump Tax Overhaul Would Threaten Wind-Finance Deals, Spur M&A

Wind-power skeptic Donald Trump's proposed tax overhaul may have an unintended consequence: threatening wind farms' balance sheets....

Risk Assessment

EPA Rule Proposes Process to Evaluate Chemical Risks in Commerce

The Environmental Protection Agency released a proposed rule Jan. 13 that describes the process it will use to evaluate the risks of chemicals in commerce in accordance with the 2016 Toxic Substances Control Act overhaul....

Superfund

Waste Site Owner, Contractor on Hook for Hazardous Waste Cleanup

An evidentiary hearing isn't needed for a court to find a party violated a state Superfund agreement, a Minnesota appeals court ruled Jan. 9 (State v. Anderson , 2017 BL 4816, Minn. Ct. App., No. A16-0204, 1/9/17). ...

Water Pollution

Sierra Club Sues Georgia Agency Over Stricter Wastewater Permits

Georgia Power's coal-fired plants are operating under allegedly outdated wastewater permits that don't require them to meet the latest Environmental Protection Agency pollution limits, the Sierra Club said in a lawsuit against...

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